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## Sour notes from the intelligence world

In Canada, the prime minister Mr. Trudeau has brought an indictment against a journalist under the Official Secrets Act, which is accurately described by an attorney as making it a criminal offense to publish a classified document revealing how many cups of tea the average Canadian drinks.

Much of Canada is up in arms over the indictment of the Toronto Sun's Peter Worthington, the first newspaperman in Canadian history to be had up under that vague and ominous act.

"There is no question in anybody's mind," wrote the editor of the Edmonton Journal "... that the decision to prosecute the Sun was based on a vindictiveness, presumably following the old John F. Kennedy dictum, 'don't get mad — get even.'" You see, Worthington and his paper are irreverent critics of Trudeau, and the gentleman does not suffer criticism gladly.

What triggered the episode was a statement by Trudeau in parliament to the effect that although it may be true that the KGB is an enemy of Canada, it is not true that the Soviet Union is an enemy of Canada. That is on the order of saying that a mugger's right arm should be prosecuted, but not the mugger. Trudeau expanded by saying that presumably there were CIA agents operating in Canada, but the United States is not an enemy of Canada. Right on. Neither is the CIA an enemy of Canada. It is not engaged in stealing Canadian secrets, encouraging Canadian separatism or — a mistake, perhaps — disparaging Pierre Trudeau.

But notwithstanding Peter Worthington's victimization (he proceeded to publish an account of KGB activity in Canada), he favors an Official Secrets Act of some

sort, believing that any government is crazy that does not take steps to protect its genuinely secret information.

Which brings us to the case of Mr. Philip Agee. He is a former CIA operative, described in London's Daily Telegraph by its Washington reporter as — quoting an unnamed CIA counterintelligence officer — "probably the worst traitor since Kim Philby."

Philip Agee was recently in Havana, kissing Communist posteriors, and it was there that he announced a publication to be called Covert Action. The principal feature will be a monthly revelation of the names of CIA agents around the world, plus a guide to the means of detecting them. Having exposed them, Agee assures his readers, they will be rendered ineffective and probably have to leave. If they decline to leave — the host countries will take matters into their own hands. As was done two years ago in Athens when, after his name was given out, Richard Welch, CIA agent, was assassinated.

Senator Barry Goldwater has suggested it would be appropriate to take steps to revoke Agee's American citizenship, and Senator Lloyd Bentsen has said, "I believe that anyone who so recklessly threatens the safety of our agents should face the prospect of jail."

One would think these to be normal reactions in a country that is incidentally charged by history with containing the barbarians. More likely, Philip Agee will receive a Pulitzer Prize. Because the mood of the country, respecting the counterintelligence function is — ambivalent, to say the least.

At Harvard, President Derek Bok has taken the position that the CIA's recruiting must be done "openly." It has been the

practice of the agency to do its recruitment silently, through individual professors, discreet contacts and the like. On gathers from President Bok that Harvard students who desire to work in counterintelligence should negotiate with CIA representatives in a public booth in the middle of Harvard Yard. Perhaps it would be prudent to suggest that they be tattooed, so that no one, anywhere, should ever be free to say that Harvard University contributed, however passively, to the defense of the United States.

Meanwhile, we have it all from a man who suffered a great deal for his country. John Downey was freshly graduated from Yale University when, as a CIA flier, he was shot down over China and spent 23 years in Chinese jails, from which he was finally sprung by Nixon in the heyday of pingpong diplomacy. John Downey, who hadn't seen a newspaper or an American face for a generation, returned to Connecticut and began to study law. Now he is running for political office — for lieutenant governor of Connecticut. He is not bitter about his experience, he is remorseful on other grounds. About what happened to him, he says: "I knew what I was getting into. They told me what would happen if I ever got caught. If I blamed anyone it was myself." Why? "for being so dumb as to volunteer."

Was that really dumb? Yes, because the world looked different in 1951; Downey goes on. "There was a great deal of romanticism about what we were going to do. Basically, we all were highly motivated. We thought the United States had its back against the wall, and we were going to save the free world."

Now Downey knows that is all bunk.